

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 have been rejected as unpatentable over Hodac et al., US 5,775,725 in view of Enders, US 5,700,029. Claims 1 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 5 has been amended to stand independently. Claim 5 now recites the limitations of canceled claim 1 and the sheet metal carrier plate (30) forming a rigid frame and the detent hooks (12), before bending, being arranged in a recess of the frame (claims 4 and 5). The Office Action appears to cite Hodac et al. for these limitations: "The base section forms a rigid frame and before bending, the detent hooks are arranged in a recess of the frame" (Office Action, page 2). The Office Action cites no specific section of Hodac et al., but merely repeats the claim language.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Hodac et al., nor the other art of record, disclose these and the other claimed limitations. Hodac et al. do not disclose a frame with a recess or bending of detent hooks that are one-piece with the carrier plate. In any event, if the Examiner wishes to maintain this rejection, Applicant's representative requests that the Examiner specifically point out how she is interpreting Hodac et al. to disclose these limitations.

Claim 8 recites that the carrier plate (30) is constructed in one piece with a gas generator holding element (20). Claim 9 recites that the carrier plate (30) is constructed in one piece with the module housing. The Office Action appears to cite

Enders for these limitations (Office Action, page 3). The Office Action cites no specific section of Enders, but merely repeats the claim language.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Enders, nor the other art of record, disclose these limitations. Enders does not disclose a carrier plate constructed in one-piece with a gas generator holding element or a module housing. Enders appears to only disclose the mounting bracket (10) bolted to an air bag module (Col. 6, lines 48-55) and a steering wheel (Cols. 6-7, lines 64-67 & 1-5), not constructed in one-piece with any other structure. In any event, if the Examiner wishes to maintain this rejection, Applicant's representative requests that the Examiner specifically point out how she is interpreting Enders to disclose these limitations.

Claim 5, as well as claims 8, 9, and 11 which depend from claim 5, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 7 recites a gas bag module including a module housing (20), a gas bag (18), a gas bag holding element (22'), several detent hooks (12), and a sheet metal carrier plate (30). The gas bag holding element (22') fastens the gas bag (18) to the module housing (20). The several detent hooks (12) can fasten the gas bag module (20) to a component (14) which is fixed to a vehicle. The sheet metal carrier plate (30) has a substantially flat base section (32). The carrier plate (30) is constructed in one piece with the gas bag holding element (22'). The several detent hooks (12) are connected in one-piece with the base section (32) and projecting therefrom. The Office Action appears to cite Enders for the limitation: "The carrier plate is constructed in one piece with a gas bag holding element" (Office Action,

page 3). The Office Action cites no specific section of Enders, but merely repeats the claim language.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Enders, nor the other art of record, disclose this and the other claimed limitations. Enders does not disclose a carrier plate constructed in one-piece with a gas bag holding element. Enders appears to only disclose the mounting bracket (10) bolted to an air bag module (Col. 6, lines 48-55) and a steering wheel (Cols. 6-7, lines 64-67 & 1-5), not constructed in one-piece with any other structure. In any event, if the Examiner wishes to maintain this rejection, Applicant's representative requests that the Examiner specifically point out how she is interpreting Enders to disclose this limitation.

Claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 has been amended to stand independently. Claim 10 now recites the limitations of canceled claim 1 and the carrier plate is constructed in one piece with a gas generator (16). The Office Action appears to cite Enders for the limitation: "The carrier plate is constructed in one piece with the gas generator" (Office Action, page 3). The Office Action cites no specific section of Enders, but merely repeats the claim language.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Enders, nor the other art of record, disclose this and the other claimed limitations. Enders does not disclose a carrier plate constructed in one-piece with a gas generator. Enders appears to only disclose the mounting bracket (10) bolted to an air bag module (Col. 6, lines 48-55) and a steering wheel (Cols. 6-7, lines 64-67 & 1-5), not constructed in one-piece with any other structure. In any event, if the Examiner wishes to maintain this rejection,

Applicant's representative requests that the Examiner specifically point out how she is interpreting Enders to disclose this limitation.

Claim 10, as well as claims 2-4 and 6 which depend from claim 10, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 12 recites has been amended to stand independently. Claim 12 now recites the limitations of canceled claim 1 and the carrier plate forming a horn contact. The Office Action appears to cite Enders for the limitation: "The carrier plate forms a horn contact" (Office Action, page 3). The Office Action cites no specific section of Enders, but merely repeats the claim language.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Enders, nor the other art of record, disclose this and the other disclosed limitations. Enders does not disclose a horn contact. In any event, if the Examiner wishes to maintain this rejection, Applicant's representative requests that the Examiner specifically point out how she is interpreting Enders to disclose this limitation.

Claim 12 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 has been amended to stand independently. Claim 14 now recites the limitations of canceled claims 1 and 13. Amended claim 14 recites the gas bag module (10") being integrated into said cover cap (50), the cover cap (50) having side walls (54) projecting from a front wall (52) and flaps (56) arranged pivotably on the side walls (54), the carrier plate (30) being connected with the flaps (56). The Office Action appears to cite Enders for the limitations: "The cover cap has side walls projecting from a front wall and flaps arranged pivotably on the side walls are provides and the carrier plate is connected with the flaps" (Office Action, page 3).

The Office Action cites no specific section of Enders, but merely repeats the claim language.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Enders, nor the other art of record, disclose this and the other disclosed limitations. Enders does not disclose these features. In any event, if the Examiner wishes to maintain this rejection, Applicant's representative requests that the Examiner specifically point out how she is interpreting Enders to disclose these limitations.

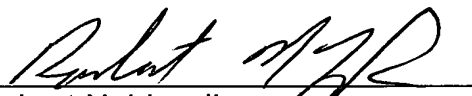
Claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

New claim 15 recites a gas bag module comprising: a plurality of detent hooks (12) for fastening the gas bag module to a component (14) of a vehicle; and a sheet metal carrier plate (30) having a substantially flat base section (32) lying in a plane and forming a rigid frame, the detent hooks (12) being arranged in a recess of the rigid frame and also lying in the plane before bending, and the detent hooks (12) and the base section (32) being one-piece and not separate pieces attached together, the detent hooks projecting from the base section (32) toward the component (14). Hodac et al., Enders, and the other art of record do not disclose a gas bag module with these features. Claim 15 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


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